

# Apostrophe to Hope

and Other Poems

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Laura Hull-Morris





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# Apostrophe to Hope

and

## Other Poems

By  
Laura Hull-Morris



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IN AFFECTION

L. H. M.



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# Apostrophe to Hope



## APOSTROPHE TO HOPE

HOPE rears her head, star-eyed, love-crowned,  
And smiles when all else frowns.  
Likened to rainbow arch in sky,  
Anchor to soul and gleam of the sun,  
Oh where may likeness to thee be found, sweet  
    Hope?

Thou art to seafarer, anchor and light;  
To wayfarer, love and home;  
To weakness, strength; to sickness, health;  
To sin, salvation; to strife, repose;  
To doubt, the trust that doth restore.

    Hope, thy name is bright!  
Faithful as friend throughout the dark night.  
Repulsed, thou dost rise, in hut, cell, or home;  
The poor man's wealth, the rich man's boon.  
The Christian's faith through long years of  
    striving,

The artist's star, just for the toiling,  
Not for the hoard, that limited word,  
But for greater gain, the soul's enlarging.

    Success is a vain word.  
How know we when we succeed in lines which  
    grow to infinity?

## Apostrophe to Hope

From beginnings, small and dwarfish, hope is  
the thought.

She beckons, guides, leads, o'er stony paths,  
Through darkest waters, always smiling, ever  
nodding,

No man she passes by, or if she would,  
An awful darkness would fall on him

Like weight of careworn ages.

Impetus to light hearts, light feet and busy  
loving hands.

The Unseen! the Mighty! She springs from the  
deep;

'Gainst the tide she leaps; silent, defensive;

Making fair th' impossible.

Gilding the dawn of thought, scarce formed,  
Tim'rous, weak, to deeds of inspiration wrought.  
Patient in pain, present in sorrow; the crystal in  
tears;

Germ in the grain to blossom tomorrow.

Thou art spirit of justice, fair Hope.

These are thy offices, yet more; for at the last  
Thou desertest not; to the conscience,  
Thy soft whispers lend a light to guide the spirit  
After feet and hands, too wearied, refuse their  
bidding.

And at the river where all travelers cross,  
In the same way, with pageant left behind,  
Simply, surely, even there, sweet Hope, thou  
failest not.

Then the way is bright, the way that rich and  
poor

## Apostrophe to Hope

5

And sad and gay, must pass alike, is smooth and  
bright

By thy glad rays, dear Hope.  
Beacon light! thou'rt all there is, save God.

1898.

## INGRATITUDE

WERE all the hordes of hell  
Barking at your high estate  
You owe but loyalty for a benefit.  
Gratitude is graven on the tombs of saints;  
And rightly, too, for it is most sublime and rare!  
Graven on the hearts of but a few,  
'Twere ever so; I ne'er have given greatness;  
Generosity; but that it fell as heart-break to the  
    giver;  
    And as thunderbolt from hell.  
    And so, is earthly gain!  
He who knows not what he owes unto another,  
    Shall, by Time, be taught;  
As pulses slower grow in days of contemplation,  
Justice comes! It is a thing accurst,  
    Not to know a benefit.  
Not to reckon with the Great Assayer;  
And so the triumph comes to him who hath  
    most nobly wrought;  
To him who, in the plenitude of his great spirit,  
    Must suffer and grow strong—  
In the nobility of acts, which may meet with no  
    acclaim;  
Until Old Time shall say:

## Ingratitude

7

"These privileges are mine, and none shall  
gainsay me.

My gifts are mighty, as my words;

For I am the ultimate;

The end; which inscribes upon the scroll

Of long-lived Fame, and enrolls

The motive and the spirit."

Let ingratitude be engraven only

On the fronts of fiends,

'Tis not the high, or mighty mien;

'Tis the displeasure of the gods to reckon with,

There is no mien hatefuller to angels or to men

Than foul-faced Ingratitude.

It is fit for devils only in their hell;

It is a grievous stain.

June 16, 1915.

## SOLITUDE

OUT upon the sea's broad sweep  
No life save mine, near all this vasty deep  
To eye discovered; save seagull's silent flight  
Afar, across the blue of wave and light  
Of shimmering seas, that lash  
Their shores in e'er recurrent foam; and dash  
Their rocky sides in rhythmic song.

'Midst tangled cedar's undergrowth I sit,  
'Neath sougning vines, and earth's black loam,  
unlit  
By summer's sun; and hear these waters woo  
In strain invincible; in gentlest cadence sue.  
Here, I, alone, would fain its soft refrain  
Interpret, divine its noble strain,  
In solitude's most grateful lay.

The spring's soft gurgle and its trickling stream  
More eloquent than words of man, would seem  
To still his moanings. The waving fern,  
Whose roots 'neath yonder rock discern  
In humble eloquence its feathered greens,  
Turns toward the sea, and forward leans  
To find its kind in ocean deeps.



Each has a voice; the tendrils roam  
Unfettered; white sea cap's foam  
In monotone and e'er repeated swell  
'Gainst rock-ribbed sides and mossy fell;  
The seagull's silent swing  
Above, adown, on graceful wing  
All basked in autumnal sun.

\* \* \* \* \*

The ship's soft course, the shaded bower;  
The widening water's greater power.  
Hast soul untouched? Come list to waves that  
lap  
These shores, as far mid-ocean cap  
Of foam another seeks all merged in endless  
song.

Cedars sad as cypress with their promise of  
evergreen  
Prie-Dieu and mossy shrines, from out their  
copses lean;  
Here the soul essays to speak  
Its holiest utterances, in meek  
Expression, in this sanctuary of infinite  
mystery.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sunshine, silence, solitude!  
O trinity to man, of triune good!  
Hast time to think? to Source of these  
Thy reck'ning turn, and spirit sees  
Divinity everywhere, and God in all.

10           Apostrophe to Hope

And now the atmosphere is gray, and sky and  
    sea;

    Their symphony in minor key;  
Enchanting as a fragment of some sweet  
    Forgotten song; and past and present meet  
        In Memory's holy psalmody.

September, 1905.

## A SONG OF REUNION

LET happiness renew, let joy come forth!  
And Angel of Mirth, spread your wings over all.  
Let the precious gladness, forth, like the sun;  
    Even the sunbeams of life.  
Love rules over all, while he serves;  
Let Love be entwined with laurel leaves,  
And with olive branch be plumed!  
Welcome him as one mighty;  
    A greater than king.  
Shout with gladness, he enters where he will;  
Abides, giving joy, giving peace  
    And bringing cheer.  
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS! LOVE IS HERE!

March 23, 1905.

## TO A YOUNG CHILD

QUAINT of speech and fair of feature  
Beauty of face and form;  
Something rarer still, and sweeter,  
Is the charm of early morn,  
In this child's enchanting spirit  
Shedding to the atmosphere,  
Something which God gives with merit,  
And changes not when years are sere.

June, 1899.

## TO A FRIEND

(A TOAST)

THERE are times for us all in the day  
When our hearts full of hope and joy  
Make the rustle of wings seem not far away  
And life is without alloy.

The sunshine has a goldener hue,  
The air has life in its trend,  
And this is the time in the day to renew  
When we see the face of a friend.

## WIND-SPRITES

(MARCH)

HEAR the songs the winds are singing!  
In full chorus gaily ringing!  
Tell me, wind-sprites, what you're singing.  
Merry song you sing to-day,  
In roulade and roundelay?

O'er the high and lofty gables,  
Telling us in wild weird fables  
Of the sprites that haunt the gables,  
Are you merry, are you glad,  
Then why make the heart so sad?

Do you shriek or cry in pain,  
Is your moan for many slain  
In the life-strife and the pain,  
Or are you glad and gay,  
Your song roulade and roundelay?

February 19, 1901.

## CHANT PRAISES TO THE LORD

"Religion, love, and music; are they not the triple expression of one fact,—the need of expansion, the need of touching with their own infinite the infinite beyond them, which is in the fibre of all noble souls? These three forms end in God, who alone can unwind the knot of earthly emotion."

BALZAC.

THE Lord will defend me and build up His  
mighty fortress

About me. He will abide with me for I believe!

Mighty His judgments and just,  
Merciful that His judgments are not the judgments

Of men, but that He alone is Almighty.

I love to praise Him in the silence

When He cometh to abide as my strength.

For my weakness is His promise of help.

He forsaketh not the cry of the wounded  
heart.

He heareth and answereth. Let me praise Him

In the sanctuaries of His creations.

I am not afraid when my Saviour is my  
friend.

I am not afraid.

Nor perils nor dangers of the night can assail.

16      Apostrophe to Hope

He disperseth all my fear. Let me meet His  
favor;  
He hath promised all things to His faithful,  
Even His radiant presence,  
And in mercy He answereth prayer.  
August 15, 1905.



## MY LADY JOSEPHINE

BEAUTIFUL to look upon,  
A queen of gracious mien,  
A woman pure and gentle  
Is my Lady Josephine.

Her words are music on the air,  
Her voice is sweet and low,  
Caressing, soft and rhythmic  
As summer sounds that come and go.

Her mind is a jeweled casket,  
Store of treasure rich and rare;  
Beautiful her soul within—  
Her presence wondrous fair.

“Who can paint the lily?”  
In vain for words I seek;  
Phrases fail and naught avails  
When I of my friend would speak.

Her thoughts are lofty, noble,  
She will always find I ween,  
Friends and friendships manifold—  
My Josephine, my queen.

## YE WAVES OF THE WINDS

YE invisible waves of winds in space,  
Like ocean's billows' measured rythm,  
Continuously do flow.  
Like water's waves, and yet are dry.  
Temper with thy gentlest touch, O winds,  
When Sahara's heated breath,  
Or Tempest's awful threat  
Thy bosom heaves.  
Soothe with velvet touch  
The fevered pillow and the night's slow ache;  
Enter the homes of those who toil  
With freshening caress, in Summer's torrid heat;  
To the weary and the needy, bring rest—  
Thy fresh, sweet nectared wine—  
From ocean's bed, full-filtered.  
And when the ice king 'shrouds the earth  
In pitiless embrace,  
To suffering be thou kind;  
Blow gently, and bring balm, ye waves  
From ether's endless sea.

August.

## TO A DRAGON FLY

THOU pretty thing in Nature's realm

Where hast thou found thy gorgeous raiment,  
Thy jewels, the soft flutterings of thy gilded  
wings,

Thine insouciance and thy grace?  
Thy imperious, lofty ways, amongst thy meaner  
kind,

Whence thy poses, catching the sunlight in  
thine eyes?  
The brightest breeze that plays, as clear and  
limpid

As the lake, is thine, in which to dip  
Thy brilliant wings, and soar aloft, away  
Above the sulky grub and impish toad.

Thou risest, like a pendant into space  
Of clustered setting of all precious gems  
Abounding in thy beauteous form.

Dost know that thou art ornament of all about  
thee?

How gay thou art! No burden save thy jewelled  
self.

Thy pastime, but to rise, to soar,  
To fly to some green leaf or to another;  
To top of tree or blade of grass,

Nor fear for thy safe moorings. So perfected  
Is thy form in all proportions  
Of grace and equipoise, that laughter  
Seems within thy wings, and thou mightest be  
The emblem of all gaiety. Dost know that thou  
art regnant  
In the ether? The blue is thine, the turf,  
The bush, the green, the sward.  
And how know we, that stars are not to thee?  
Thou toilest not, but all the bright long day,  
Thou'rt tipping this and lipping there  
Accusing all as thine. Thou art not made for  
grovelling,  
Beauteous thing! And whence and where  
Thy dainty mainspring, toy? What mechanism  
Clothed within so rare a beauty  
To propel a dainty thing. And who dare say,  
thee nay,  
Or aught to make thee pause?

## THE RAIN

How the dripping from the eaves  
Starts the fancy going,  
Peopling with sprites the leaves,  
Their songs in music flowing.

Music sweeter, gentler far  
Than all earth's children maketh,  
No discord there can ever mar  
And the soul's thirst it slaketh.

Oh, the dripping, dropping rain!  
The sprites a cadence weaving  
Into harmonious sweet refrain,  
Our weary souls relieving.

As tears are sent to ease the heart  
When it throbs in pain,  
So Nature's needs to her impart  
In the bounty-giving rain.

September, 1900.

## GOD'S WAY

THOUGH I might have had it otherwise  
Than the way it has been sent,  
Hard as the way and slow the pace  
Strength to me ever was lent.

When bitter foes assailed  
And tried God's ends to thwart,  
He gave them just enough of power  
To lead them to the mart

Where all roads lead to Him;  
For every child his lot  
Ordained, for time, has been,  
And for eternity changes not.

What waste of time and moments spent,  
What feverish haste in vain!  
Slow to learn His one great word  
Growth is travail and pain.

But for the foes and dangers past  
I had never reached the heights.  
These are His labourers in the plan;  
So I bless the Hand that smites.

With pity, think of those who dare  
 To change His plan, to try  
 Their own, in Life's great plan  
 And send them but a sigh.

And thank my foes, as suns arise  
 As they see their work is done;  
 For what is mine shall be my own  
 Unchanging as the sun

In its long course, to rise and set;  
 Yet ever shines the while,  
 'Tis my short vision only  
 That I must reconcile

That it illumines another way  
 When I have not the light,  
 For kindly He withholds the glare  
 For clearer, nobler sight

Of truths learned on the way,  
 Better to climb, than with a bound  
 To heights attain; through Sorrow's plan  
 And deeper plummets sound.

I ride or walk, or sit and wait,  
 I know those near are likewise tried  
 With burdens, which each strives to bear  
 With courage, putting pain aside.

So I take my cup of bitterness  
If my soul it doth expand,  
For life is living something more  
For this offering from His hand.

True, His way not mine, oh no!  
Paved with heart pangs and soul ache,  
And if I the way could know,  
My strength would waver and forsake.

But 'tis thus the fibre forms  
For storms and clouds o'ercast,  
And gives strength to endeavor  
To reach the haven at last.

Nor hand of man or demon  
Can from me this prize wrest;  
For what is mine is surely mine  
If I claim it in the quest.

And if I claim it not, and pray  
Thy will, not mine, be done,  
As rivers flow unto the sea,  
A Hand will lead me on.

1904.



## OF LOVE

Oh who can sing of love!

    The gentle tender tie that binds  
Within its chain and never finds

    The fault or tear  
And naught to fear;

    Oh who can sing of love!

    Of love which knows no change

    For time or aye,

    What minstrel's lay

    Can sing?

## SEPTEMBER

ALL hail, September! Harbinger of fall of leaf  
and bloom,

With promise of the freshness of the frost.

After days of weariness, of lassitude and ease,

Return to active life and freshened buoyant air.

Decay and failure thou foretellest,

Hope's chastisement and withholding,

To come in greater beauty in the spring.

Vacation days of rest, the fuller days of toil,

Pulses quickened by the lessons of the past,

Of hopes and their fulfillment,

Delays and failures blended,

Typified in seasons of the year.

1901.

## MY NATIVE HOME

FAIR City of the Plains,  
Your fame would bid us know  
That Nature smiled upon you  
When she named you long ago.  
Your trees are tall and stately,  
Your banks are mossy green;  
Your skies are bluer than the blue  
Of other skies, I ween.

You are fairer than the heather  
That o'er your valley blows,  
Fanned by gentle breezes  
Its spreading beauty sows.  
You are to me the measure  
Of a childhood's happy home;  
Memory twines a wreath in pleasure  
When in far off lands I roam.

Fair City of the Plains,  
I love your hills and dales;  
My mind doth fondly ponder  
The soft breezes in your vales.

## Apostrophe to Hope

As no others, since, have done,  
Their sweet songs have touched my heart  
With a music almost magic;  
Bidding all but joy depart.

Though framed in plains of beauty  
Your outlook is from high hills,  
I quaff a long draught to you  
From out your flowing rills;  
May Nature's horn of plenty  
O'er all your valleys strow  
Her contents ever lavish  
All good things to bestow.

Join in fraternal union  
Success to your sons and their sires;  
All joy to mothers and daughters  
Who build 'round their altars the fires  
Of love as your beacon  
To your days guiding star,  
And brave men and fair women  
Send your praises anear and afar.

February 14, 1900.

## POURQUOI?

I KNOW not why I should be sad,  
The heaven's vault is blue;  
The stars are shining for us all  
And I have you;

The birds are singing in the boughs,  
The leaflet is in green,  
The world is full of beauty  
As we have seen.

It storms, sometimes, and rains;  
Tears fall, and chilly blast.  
Why does the sunshine flicker  
And shadows last?

While I have you, my darling,  
I will not give way to pain  
As we pluck the flowers together  
That bloom in rain.

January, 1900.

## LITTLE LADY BABY MINE

(*To Baby T—*)

I HAVE a little baby,  
Her lips are petals of the rose;  
Her eyes are blue as any skies,  
And on her brow the whiteness  
Of the lily grows.

O she is blithesome!  
And so lithesome  
Her soul is all sunshine;  
She is dainty, sweet, and winsome  
Little Lady Baby Mine.

1901.

## AFTER PARTING

THE music's throb and the poet's rhyme,  
The painter's art and the truant time,  
The sculptor's work and the voyage long,  
The architect's draft and the singer's song,  
Can charm but little; less repay,  
When the voice we cannot hear, though near,  
And from companionships so dear  
We are withheld, through passing years;  
Though absence all our loves endears.  
In tenderer strain yet yearns the heart  
And longing more, with bitter smart;  
So turns to strong Endeavor's test  
And consecrates to works' behest;  
That days shall go, to-morrows come,  
And bring to us our loved ones home.  
In reunion, find our mercies sweet  
As the faithful in their Heaven meet.

May 31, 1904.

## WISHING

How futile were wishing, and beautiful too,  
If wishing be part of that we shall do;  
Not foolishly pining for that unpossessed,  
But rather the prayer of the righteous and  
blest.

How gaily caparisoned the horses might go  
Which "beggars might ride" if wishing were  
so;  
And not for the earning of what shall be ours,  
For 'tis only by effort that we gain of our  
powers.

Oh the *élan* of wishing, when thoughts troop  
around  
In which justice and beauty and fairness  
abound!  
Sending gloom and distrust, with love's colors  
flying  
In the place of despair, whose embers lay  
dying.

And wise wishes are often the prophets, fore-  
telling  
Of what is to come; of fears oft dispelling;



Placed in our consciousness, there to abide,  
Till prophecy, true, no doubt can betide.

Ah the uplift of wishing! when Fancy runs riot  
In the arcades of Time where, 'mid peace and  
the quiet  
Of Thought's silent Temple, the soul's mystic  
shrine,  
Gives up legions of wishes from the wealth of  
its mine.

For the best of the Muses, the crafts and the arts  
That beauty and truth shall obtain in the  
hearts  
Of Mankind's suffering children, and no longer  
their pain:  
Then the end of all wishing is Life's greatest  
gain.

June 4, 1905.

## TO MY BABY BOYS

(A LULLABY)

ONE with fair hair with a glint of the gold,  
Another dear head in my arms to enfold.

\* \* \* \* \*

Eyes light with laughter,  
Making sunshine for all;  
Smiles in their dear depths  
Raise the gloom's darkest pall.

Pure as the lily heart  
From which the bee sips,  
Purer than heart of lily  
Are my dear babies' lips.

Tears on the cheeks, loves,  
Angels should not weep,  
They are sent earth to brighten  
While they their vigils keep.

Love-touched with fay fingers  
The deep dimples attest,  
Knuckle, cheek, chin, and knee;  
Rest, my sweet babies, rest.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shall coming years be freighted  
With flowers and evergreens,  
To you a special mission  
To bowers and fairy scenes?

Ah me, dear ones, I fear sometimes,  
That tears amid the laughter  
May come in notes discordant,  
And leave their traces after.

I kiss my baby boys to sleep  
And pray for Heaven's blessing,  
Trusting the Father over all,  
My helplessness confessing;

And when no Mother bends the knee  
And they gaze at a heart at rest,  
They will bear her where the cypress blooms,  
And know that what is, is best.

March 14, 1899.

## CHOPIN

MIGHTY builder of Gothic Temples! Mystic  
shrine!

Inspired and created in revered design.  
Heritage of more than classic lore;  
Singer whose forms and strains shall soar  
To touch the world-heart; its harmonies to  
fashion;  
The world-heart to touch, its fickleness, its  
passion.  
Its steadfastness, its soul, its fancy;  
By his wondrous necromancy.

\* \* \* \* \*

From thy gables spring melodies  
Like cataracts' plash—roundelays,—  
Hurling down from the mountains!  
Silver spray, from the fountains!  
Glinting and sprinting their lovely sheen  
Like jewels flashing in sunlight seen.  
Concealed now by turret and lost to view,  
Then sparkling o'er tower in gay crest of dew.

Traceries rare, as old patterns in lace;  
Inwrought, o'erwrought, in rarest of grace;

Architect, subtle in shadow and light,  
When the winds moan 'mid thy turrets at  
night,  
Thy noble structure returns their refrain  
And thou singest in earth's saddest strain.

\* \* \* \* \*

In thy gables and turrets and towers of song  
The soul finds abode and abideth long.  
Builder, O Builder, thou hast not wrought in  
vain  
Since thou spakest all moods to the long  
human train.  
Structure stuccoed in jewels,—crystallized tears.  
Their high vaulted dome to heaven appears.  
Dazzling heights, O Builder, whence thy soul  
man can view;  
Temple shrine where may worship thy devout  
chosen few.

## SILENCE

OPAQUE as in the mind's recesses  
Silence holds her subtle sway.  
Folds us in her mantle's meshes,  
Points us to our inner day.  
In shadowy lines to us unsealing  
Visions of the better man;  
Of Life's truths the mines revealing  
As the turmoil never can.  
Seed is planted in the sunlight,  
In the sun-lit day;  
Matured by fruitful dew of twilight,  
From tumult far away.

August 14, 1901.

## THE RAIN IS ON THE ROSES

THE rain is on the roses, Alice dear, Alice dear,  
The rain is on the roses, Alice dear,  
But to-morrow's sun will brighten,  
And our hearts with joy will lighten;  
Their message then shall greet you,  
Alice dear.

Heaven-sent tears are fruitful, Alice dear, Alice  
dear,  
Heaven-sent tears are fruitful, Alice dear;  
They will bloom in greater glory,  
They will tell a sweeter story,  
When they greet you on the morrow,  
Alice dear.

June 4, 1905.

## EXTASE

(IMPRESSIONS IN THE EARLY MORNING)

GLORIOUS are the hills!  
Song all time fulfills;  
My heart in rapture thrills  
To the glory of the hills.

To my soul the sight  
Of this early morning's light  
Shows Nature's rapturous might  
In all her native right.

'Mid boughs and branch, the trills  
From music's throat; and thrills  
The air; as flow the rills  
Adown the verdant hills

In Nature's wondrous lay,  
From early light of day  
Till sunset's latest ray.  
My soul, make no delay



## Extase

41

To praise for gifts so rare  
As this delight to share  
And fling away thy care  
In joys of earth and air.

May 5, 1904.

## MEDITATION

*(Le bon Dieu ne nous a rien donné plus précieux que le temps.)*

TIME, thou priceless gift of God,  
Why waste we in repining?  
The harvest must be garnered, the fruition  
tended;  
Yet how slothful, how complaining!  
Knowing not the coming season, we must till on,  
Watering with our tears the sod,  
Furrowing with our sighs the clods,  
Gathering seed for another planting;  
For all things renew, and come again.  
Leaving no thing to lesson man,  
If he will but learn. Why tarry, my soul,  
And wait, always asking why?  
He hath said: he who asketh, shall receive;  
And he who hath ears, let him hear;  
For in the signs given, if he will not,  
He shall not. Sincerely let us pray,  
Thy will be done, and from evil deliver us.  
Thou who dost hang worlds in ether,  
Dost hold the stars in space,  
The Oceans in their beds,

The mountains on their bases; Thou, who  
makest

The harebell and the leaflet,

The lily and the rose. Who can magnify Thee,  
Power of the million Joves!

Tender as the child in arms, let us meditate on  
Thee.

Since Thou hast promised that he who  
Asketh shall receive, grant, then, O Father,  
That what Thou sendest be not too great a  
burden,

But give us rest, and give us peace.

April 2, 1901.

## MY BOOKS

My books are my companions, and lonely  
Indeed were I, if vacant space  
Were there to take the place  
When I come to greet them.  
They lend unto my moods, and rest  
I find; faithful friends and fast,  
Ne'er changing; but outlast  
The varying times and tides  
Of years a-gone, and yet to come.  
Trustful, faithful to their mission  
To lowly, puritan and patrician;  
Silent messengers from many minds.

Ranged in tiers like sentinels  
To guide and guard the days  
From dreaded ennui; and in praise  
Of life and loving, I go forth  
With braver heart and stronger  
For their sympathy; in spirit chastened  
Go; but to return to them as hastened  
To the embrace of one we love.  
He is not friendless who has books;  
And choice his friends, as he may choose  
In coterie select, where none may lose  
The precious aroma of nectar'd wine

From which the gods might sip.

And from the flight of verse, in inspiration  
wrought

So fluent and so fine, as unsought

It seems to flow untrammelled

Like the mighty river in its course,

Giving green; and bright in gladness,

Or to some strain touched with sadness,

All our sorrows and our joys sustaining,

Ye books are human in all moods;

In sighs and tears and laughter;

In logic, science, art; thereafter,

Speak unto my soul, as to a friend.

Give me my books and I am rich

In thought, in fame and store.

In fancy rare, and historied lore;

I revel with the mightiest kings

And with the master crafts I toil;

Commune with saints on high,

With poets walk, with artists sigh

In moments of *délîce*;

When Inspiration's tardy wing

Spreads and illumines all

To mortal gifts, and weaves the thrall

Of mankind's sovereign need.

## CLARA BARTON

NAME apart in woman's annals  
High on the scroll of noble deeds another Night-  
ingale,  
With genius single-eyed to mankind's weal,  
She came upon the scene empowered to act.  
A hero woman; missioned for a time and place.  
She moved among her suffering kind,  
Nor flood nor fire, nor war's alarm, deterred.  
A Joan had not less of fear, nor for her country  
nobler wrought  
Than this pale Sister of the Charities.  
A soldier woman; meek in obedience, intrepid in  
command.  
She moved at night, a patriot, among her nation's  
dead and dying.  
Hands ready, seeking for their toil,  
T'assuage the throbbing brow, the gashed flesh,  
And soft words to soothe the fevered spirit.  
She scattered seeds of promise, everywhere;  
In devastation's wake new gardens grew, and  
fields were blossomed.  
Nights turned to days, so eloquent in ministra-  
tion  
That praise to monument so enduring, cannot add

To wreath of laurel and crown of olive  
Weaved from assuaged pain and whispered words  
of dying men.

Through passes narrow and morasses' murky  
depths,

On battle field, she strode, with chosen band of  
Spartans.

Unfurl the flag! Insignia of the Cross !

Its every wave protection to proclaim.

To work; bring gladness to the eye of soldier  
martyr,

And to the cheek its color, strength to limb

And hope to heart. Let not our ranks be deci-  
mated

Of noble manhood's life.

Moist the parched lips, while battles rage

And combats clash, where mothers may not go,

Or sister's cheering word, nor kiss of wife may  
bless.

My countrymen, what praise for one

Whose immortelles are wrought of deeds!

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

WHERE are the rattle, the drum, and horn  
That I heard on awakening each Christmas  
morn,  
When the wee ones' shouts rang loud and clear,  
Rang out in gay laughter and Christmas cheer?  
On Christmas eve the good-night kiss  
Half smothered in questions of joy and bliss,  
Of the morrow's hopes and of Santa Claus,  
And mysteries all, in many wise saws.

My heart is full, but empty my hands,  
As my babies wander in far-away lands;  
And as my thanks ascend on high—  
A prayer, a tear and a tender sigh  
For something gone from this day so dear,  
Gone from its merriment, laughter, and cheer;  
For I hear not the drum in its deafening din  
Nor see the youngsters come marching in.

It all seemed sweet and natural then,  
But I fear sometimes, since they've grown to be  
men,  
That the noises great and the deafening roar  
Of children and toys impress me more



With the sweetness of things that come not  
again—

In Memory's haunts so long they have lain;  
And today, they are with me in childish glee  
As they were in those days, clustered 'round my  
knee.

Xmas, 1904.

## REDIVIVUS

It must have been an angel in the night  
    Bringing balm in mysterious unknown word  
        to me;  
Word full of meaning and of might  
    Fraught with hope for restoration;  
        Redivivus, life and light!

From the heights, so fair and lofty and so  
    bright  
    Came the angel bearing balm in this word  
        unknown to me;  
Ringing out as joyous bells in the stillness of the  
    night  
    Giving faith and taking unbelief away;  
        Redivivus, life and light!

Its meaning to my vision brought new sight;  
    This mysterious word, then unknown to  
        me,  
And its answer in the silence of the night  
    I only knew from vanquished pain and  
        silenced woe.  
        Redivivus, life and light!

In each soul dwells its consciousness of might;  
Its spark divine; though its revelation oft  
delayed;  
Oft it speaks, too, in the silence of the night  
To a knowledge born of seeking,  
Redivivus, life and light!

## TO A RING

(Remembrance)

A GOLDEN circlet, a little ring;  
A dainty jewelled thing,  
Telling its silent message through the years  
Of the steadfast love he bore  
In the happy days of yore.

Days that are as happy yet,  
For who would e'er forget  
The old sweet memories of the yester-time?  
When the heart's own lore  
Makes its spring-tide ever more.

## THE SEA

FATHOMLESS mystery, the Sea!  
Mother Nature to her own  
Of dales and glades, of mount and moon;  
But of all, her child, the sea,  
    Is the greatest mystery.

It speaks, but few can understand;  
It hearkens but to her command;  
It roars and threats, and moans and smiles,  
Boundless moods the sea,  
    From laughter light to mutiny.

Beautiful, yet pitiless!  
From waves which shimmer blithesomely  
Softly swells thy lullaby;  
Knowest thou thy power?  
    That even though thou lullèd be,

Still art thou awful, mighty Sea.  
Thou art dark and grave and gay;  
Worthy twin to mountain's height;  
The wave caps and the high peaks light,  
    Children both, of Nature's heart

## Apostrophe to Hope

Sky-tipped peak, and boundless sea  
Dost thou then repine?  
O child as awful as Fate!  
Or art thou not too grave and great,  
Waveless though thou be?  
And though thou givest bounteously,  
Still art thou awful,  
Beautiful Sea!

## A BOUQUET OF ORCHIDS

A BUNCH of Orchids, children of the air!  
Thou dost descend to honor me;  
Thou, exclusive, rare and fair.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thy fay slippers fit for fairy feet  
Come merry with the dance;  
Aristocrat! from high retreat  
Ye come; as herald from my friend,  
Ye velvet-throated trumpets!  
Which through my veins do send  
(Giving of thy fine *cachet*),  
Sweet speech, though breathed in silence,  
In the breath of thy bouquet.  
Ye velvet-hearted bells  
Ye came to me a-singing,  
Harbingers of joy; I see a heart in thee,  
More than flower, ye came a-ringing  
With a friend's most gracious lay;  
Her most precious message  
Sent me in thy rare *cachet*.

1906.

## TO BABY DOROTHY

A CHILD, a flower;  
A blossom of incomparable perfume;  
A mysticism of loveliness;

A mystery of God's power;  
A manifestation of His love;  
A beauty that has its pathos;

A soul that has its mission;  
A smile that has its heaven.  
And this is Dorothy.

February 19, 1903.



## HOME

LIFE is an Ocean;  
The home is the ship,  
Where Love rules the rudder,  
Let not a sail rip.

Firm and steady her launch,  
Build her strong, build her true!  
For all winds and all tides,  
Build her staunch.

For there's one spot on earth  
Where the weary find rest,  
Where the wayward return  
After Folly's long quest.

Safe craft to the haven  
As *en voyage* we roam  
O'er Life's foaming billows  
To our long cherished Home.

April 30, 1904.

## THE SONG OF THE SEA

O THE song of the sea is delightful to me,  
With its ever varying rhyme;  
Its harmonies fair and its melodies rare  
Are glimpses of music sublime!

O the song of the sea is a marvel to me,  
Its cadences fill my soul;  
Bringing memories sweet old songs to repeat,  
From the waves and billows they roll!

O the song of the sea borne on waves to me,  
In chorus, song, ballad, and hymn,  
In thunderous voice they bid me rejoice,  
Their meaning is no longer dim!

That the song of the sea has a message for me,  
Is assurance tender and sweet;  
That to my soul it should open its scroll,  
Is happiness naught can defeat.

O the song of the sea is joyous to me!  
The song, the song, of the sea!  
O the song of the sea is great joy to me,  
The song, the song, of the sea!

## WINTER

("But winter has brighter scenes, . . .  
Splendors beyond what gorgeous summer knows.  
Or autumn, with his many fruits and woods  
All flushed with many hues."  
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.)

THOU'RT royal, Winter! though forbidding oft  
to him  
Who see'st not the life that rests in root and stem  
Of leafless tree; and current 'neath the icy sur-  
face  
Of brook's and river's courses; who see'st not  
The warm ermine that thou hast donned in  
kingly splendor  
As mantle wrapped about thy bosom, entwining  
in its warm embrace.  
On yonder slope, within that trunk of brown and  
sere,  
Thy pulse throbs beat, the life is there,  
And fragrant balsam, frozen, but t'unseal  
With first glad laugh of Spring; to me, thou'rt  
beautiful,  
Winter, in varied aspect of the morn and noon  
and night.  
This day the air is white with texture fine

And gossamer lightness, anon in tapestries of  
snowy loom

Lambent in scurrying flakes, as conscience-  
driven,

They knew thy needs, and hurrying to their  
fulfillment.

Weaving wondrous patterns into space, and lying  
Close and low upon thy bosom, so beautiful and  
still!

To me, thou'rt comely, Winter, aye more, thou'rt  
regal;

How thy sky becomes thee! The softest hues  
of gray

With thine æsthetic white commingle in coloring  
of iridium,

And earth's soft tones with metal white are  
mingled

In Art's most gracious Art.

Though thy still dignity maintaining, thou  
frownest not;

'Tis but thy stately mien; and 'neath thy coun-  
tenance

There dwells a warmth and kindliness.

Thou'rt old and hoary, Winter, and thou'rt  
kingly.

November 13, 1904.

## TO HER

HERE's a posey for my sweetheart,  
Look into its heart for mine;  
Emblem of love and friendship,  
Of all, life's rarest wine;  
For a heart, you know, is a gift below,  
To remind us of things divine.

Take this message, blossom,  
To one I long to see;  
Take it with dainty tenderness  
From your home across the lea.  
For Nature is true, and so are you;  
So bear my sincerity.

Can I trust you with this mission  
My heart to her to bear?  
For it can throb and even break  
If not with tenderest care  
Within her keeping, in love-feast reaping  
The blessings of friendship rare.

So take this posey to my sweetheart,  
Look into its heart for mine;

Emblem of joy and friendship,  
Of all, life's rarest wine;  
For a heart, you know, is a gift below  
To remind us of things divine.

## EASTER MORNING

HE is risen! glorious truth!

Light and not darkness is vouchsafed to men.  
His raiment as the sunshine, resplendent in His  
power.

Who, among Earth's children may give forth  
To the Infinite, praise, in the finitude

Of their understanding; who can extol His  
loving kindness?

That He hath died for us, and that he hath

Returned unto us, that our feet may not be  
cut

By the sharp stones; that the wounds of our  
hearts

Shall be healed by the favor of His infinite  
love.

Let gratitude and praise fill the air;

The Lord is risen!

1909.

## TO DEBORAH

I KNOW a flower so dainty  
That in the garden grows,  
As sweet as bluest violet  
Or stately growing rose;  
It scatters its sweet perfume  
In generous behest,  
And gives out truth and beauty  
In Nature's bower the best.

I know a girl so dainty,  
So like this flower is she,  
Her eyes as soft and gentle  
As the blossoms on the lea.  
Would'st know what flower I liken?  
Seek the sweet forget-me-not;  
Truth's and friendship's emblem  
Are hers by Nature wrought.

August 1, 1901.



## THE POINSETTA

THE passion-beauty Poinsetta  
Brought me from lady fair  
To grace my festal board  
On occasion rare;

For when friend to meet friend comes  
Communion means the sweetest pleasure,  
The best exchange of thought  
Culled from moments leisure.

Not alone the blossoms,  
Yet more, their meaning sweet;  
Of my friend the flower the emblem is,  
To my heart I oft repeat.

February 1, 1904.

## AMERICA

OUR loved land America! Proud pearl of the  
seas!

Set in mountains of gold, silver lakes and their  
leas;

In a wealth of the Ind, she proclaims in her  
might

The good she has done in the cause of the right.  
To the mercy and strength of a prosperous reign,  
All hail hymns of praise in defence of her main!  
Her soldiers and sailors shall love her and die  
If need be, to perish 'neath far away sky.

'Mongst the nations of earth she comes like a  
queen

A queen she doth stand, in gracefulest mien;  
Olive branch for her friends, flaming sword for  
her foes,

She hath naught but hope, courage, faith, and  
repose.

A star's radiance gleams in her coronet aflame,  
Emblem of light and love, of beauty and fame;  
These rays to her bright crown have been won  
By the manliest men the sun e'er shone on.

America, thy sons and daughters and sires  
Give praise with shouts, with voices and lyres,

In battle or peace, in war hymn or in song,  
Obedience and reverence shall redress all  
wrong.

\* \* \* \* \*

Until thy rills and wooded lanes,  
Mountain peaks and vales acclaim,  
From grassy slope to ocean's strand,  
All hail, All hail, to thy dear name,

AMERICA!

1896.

## LINES TO JULIA

FAIR Julia! sweet ether of a name;  
A girl I love and she loves me;  
She is ever constant, true;  
Though I rarely see her dear face now,  
For distance far has spanned the sea  
Which divides us not.

True hearts grow near in memories,  
And thought makes soul to soul appear.  
So absence takes her not from me;  
While memory lives, I have no fear  
To be forgot; nor e'er base thought  
Of her forgetting.

March, 1905.

## TO A FACE ILLUMINED

ENCHANTING smile! the soul's reflection  
Of pure white chambers untraversed by sin!  
Spark divine; spirit of God-head;  
Radiance glorified within!

Speak unto my soul's recesses  
Soul to soul, communion sweet  
In earth's language, yet immortal  
As when spirit issues meet.

Radiant illumination, gift of God unto His own;  
Halo of the star-lit starshine,  
Love inspired, approvèd mission;  
Expression of its Source divine!  
August 2, 1901.

## WAR AND PEACE

I AM weary of reading of wars,  
And I wish we might have peace;  
And from the prowess of Mars  
I long for world-wide release.

I am weary, so weary, of strife,  
And I long for peace and love  
Like beacon stars in the lighthouse of life  
To shine on the path that I rove.

Every atom in the world is alive,  
Moving, and ever in motion;  
So futile all wish to deprive  
Fixed laws of their changeless portion.

Yet I'm weary; though wishing be lost,  
And I know it seems weak to complain,  
But warring and striving have cost  
So many heroes in life to be slain.

Let bells ring out to earth peace,  
And chimes sing toward men good-will;  
Let delight the sorrows of warring decrease,  
The promise of youth's bright dream to fulfill.

Which lends hope to the coming tomorrow  
And adds to life's glad refrain;  
A truce to gloom and to sorrow,  
And a smile at care and pain.

I am weary of reading of wars  
And I wish we might have peace;  
And from the prowess of Mars  
I long for world-wide release.

April 14, 1904.

## A LENTEN MEDITATION

LORD save us from ingratitude!  
That sin of cowering souls,  
Hateful in Thy sight as any crime.  
Save us from the clay  
That thou hast made with spirit,  
And let the divine within,  
That touch of Thee,  
Give th' expression of its Source to man  
Thy work most masterful.  
Grant an exultation in our thanks  
For all Thou sendest.  
Patience to await the *mission*  
Of the joys and burdens.  
For Thy goodness and Thy mercy  
Follow Thy benighted children  
Even as the light; and fulfillment  
Of Thy promises also,  
In the despair of their bewilderment;  
Yea, even as the *luminance* of their fulfillment.



ON PRESENTING A COPY OF A FAVORITE  
BOOK

Look not long upon the cover of this book,  
Haste thou to its inner beauties;  
Linger there with many a look  
And it will help thee to perform life's duties.

The cover's naught, the gems inside,  
Are culled from minds o'er the whole world  
wide.

Teaching life's lessons in precept sublime,  
Pillars of truth, which decay not with time.

1895.

## DESTINY

WHENCE comest thou, and whither goest,  
Thou great dark mystery of a life?  
Leading through labyrinthal ways,  
As by the hand, man, thy servant, toy  
Or chessman on the board, to higher ways  
Or lower, as thou shalt specify.  
Two paths, maybe, and each divergent,  
But thou dost attend them both.  
Unknowable and Unknown! through devious  
    paths  
We blindly go to follow thee.  
Thou oft denying, that thou may'st give,  
And laughing at our woes,  
    Dost send us greater things.  
Nature's powers are thy command;  
All laws compelled by thee.  
The astral world thou dost invoke;  
Forged by thy will, all things thine,  
Our loves and joys come as thy gift,  
To fashion thy desires. All this thou doest too;  
Hatred and jealousy are tricks of thine,  
Revenge; all padded by their smiling looks,  
And trained to seem not what they are.  
So come Ambition, strife; Genius, envy;

And Love, O recompense! all their parts performing

As plays toward the goal.

Thou dost abase, but to exalt;

Dost oft lift up, but to cast down.

Magician, Potentate, ages justify thy means  
unto an end:

The foolish asking why, and halting, fear thee.

The wise plod on with graver mien

And trust with braver heart, knowing,

Thus shape our ends to God's own will

And to greater usefulness.

Ships built for smooth or rougher seas,

Soldiers to bear the brunt of arms,

Some framed to labor, and others

To that harder part—to wait.

Thou dost deter by treachery and maskèd  
perfidy,

And thou sendest love and trust.

Merciful in severity, and severe in loving kindness,

O Destiny, thou explorest the inner chambers of  
the soul!

The end, ever in thy limitless vision.

And in this web of life, its warp and woof,

Thou weavest for us all!

And who escapes thy mandates, Fate?

Time is thy playground,

Thy pastime the lives of men. Thou'rt awful;

Immutable, inexorable, impenetrable, Fate.

June 30, 1901.

## TO A LEAF IN AUTUMN

FADING smile of summer! thou infinitesimal thing  
For which no man seems to care;  
Thou shape with consciousness, a part of many  
parts

Thou art of this great Universe.  
Dost bud, unfold, and fall again; thy veined  
face

A history tells of offices performed  
At Nature's own behest; thou, obedient,  
Camest at her call; did what thou hadst to do  
Leaving with thy well-done work, its lessons.  
So small a part thou art of such a whole  
And yet so glorified; in infancy thou wert  
graceful,

Fair to look upon; in maturity yet fairer;  
And in the sere, unsightly.

Thy seasons are the same as man's.  
Thy pretty message in the spring, yet more  
Illumined in the summer,—in autumn shed.  
In winter's frozen blast, thou returnest to the  
earth

There thy work to consummate  
In the great economy of God, where nothing  
wastes;

To a Leaf in Autumn 77

And each a part hath to perform.  
Thy form is dead now, e'en in autumn;  
But from its germ we look hereafter for its  
image;  
Thou and thy twin, ever failing, then renewing.

September 22, 1900.

## THE SABBATH

THE Lord unto Himself a day appointed  
And in wisdom gave to His anointed  
    The blessèd Sabbath tide,  
In whose reverent silence dwells  
The soul's rest; and thought within compels  
    To loftier spheres.  
When hammers' busy work is dumb  
And the world's and labor's urgent hum  
    Is stilled in toilsome mart,  
He shows His loving face  
In wondrous language through all space.  
    Upon the reverent air;  
In sunlight poured in rich effulgence,  
From flow'ret, sward, to inward sense;  
    Bringing messages of love.  
His buildèd cliff His altar; the trees His shrines,  
Whence to His creatures come the signs  
    Of mighty promises.  
In thundering tones, or softest strain,  
In Ocean's roar or Sea's refrain,  
    To hear His holy name.  
In waters' flow and brooks' bright gleams,  
In sparkling radiance His goodness seems  
    To counsel all in living speech

\* \* \* \* \*

And from earth's arc  
Soprano's voice from throat of lark  
    All praises brings  
In chorus of the earth and air, triumphant sings  
These mighty hymns to God in praise  
For His great boon, these consecrated days  
    Of hope and rest.

October 15, 1905.

## TO A VIOLET

THOU hast touched the azure,  
And retained its lovely hue;  
Thou 'broiderest on the emerald  
Thy coronets of blue.

In all the beauty 'round thee  
Of earth and sky and tree  
Thy arabesques, sweet violets,  
Vie with them on the lea.

In thy dainty corona,  
Bejewelled with the dew,  
Are all the beauties of the sky  
Of ether's rarest hue.

Thou hast five points to thy crown,  
Title to thy nobility;  
Thou dost thy royal raiment wear  
In lowly sweet humility.

Forth like smiles from teardrops,  
Thou comest after rain;  
Oh would that thou thrice camest,  
Nor so long in earth had lain.

April 27, 1903.



TO DOROTHY

(A VALENTINE)

WOULD'ST have my heart?  
    'Tis wholly thine;  
I ask thine eyes,  
    A gift divine,  
In their dear depths  
    Love's law to find.

A THOUGHT TO MRS.—

(SUMMER)

FEEBLY the pen expresses  
All the soul fain would say  
Of the varied beauties  
Of this sunshiny summer day.

ASHFIELD, MASS., August, 1901.

## TO MY HUSBAND

SITTING in the sunshine by the sea;  
O blessed privilege! if those I love could be  
By my side, and with me share

    This beauteous sight  
    Of amber clear as light;

While all the music of the spheres  
In chorus chants Te Deum; and all fears  
Suspended, in this glorious mystery

    I now can read  
    Of fruitful seed

By its Author in my soul implanted.

November 7, 1905.

## ENVY

(Envy is a grain of sand in the eye.—*Chinese Proverb.*)

ENVY! Toothless jade, or with one fang  
Whose root-envenomed sack surcharged is ne'er  
depleted.  
With bleared eyes swelled red, from grain of  
sand  
Which, being there, hurts not so much the envied  
as the envier.  
'Tis she who never smiles, but head deep sunk  
Between two shoulders which an honest burden  
ne'er has borne  
She slinks and blinks, and from side glance  
Casts arrows poisoned with the venom of her  
inner self.  
'Tis she who from false aims has failed  
And wishes all to fail; and but for power with-  
held  
From All-Wise source, would fell with one strong  
blow  
All whom her venom seeks to suck the life blood  
Or to weaken or destroy the effort.  
When Envy speaks! O crack of doom! A  
cavern opens

And hell's voices forth, like desperation poured  
from cannon's belly;

Hissing, spitting devastation everywhere.

Hairless hag and witless, with all her cunning in  
invention

She knows not that she the greatest tribute pays  
In envying; 'tis all she can, the best that's in her  
putrid bowels,

The place for heart and brain no longer Mercy's  
seat.

And what her end? Love-lorn and love forsaken.  
No good to think upon; a burnt spot for a soul

Which through Eternity must envy.

O punishment, to which no pain can correspond,  
Nor with suffering can compare!

She has not lived, but walking corpse in waking  
death;

So naught can add in hell to her bemoaning.

Twin sister to the slanderer, hand in hand

To deal destruction, if they could destroy;  
greatest sin

And self-inflicted punishment, ENVYING ALWAYS!

Seeing which, mankind makes haste to fall not  
back

Lest some such Imp of sin o'ertake, and it  
become like her and rot.

April 9, 1904.

## CHILDHOOD

IN waking hours my mind doth linger  
O'er pictured scenes of yore,  
With the gilding of the gone-time  
Come images, a score or more.

The meadows and the singing brooks  
With flowers garnished o'er  
Peeping at their mirrored faces,  
Opening wide a heaven's door.

Many heavens are in childhood,  
Though flowers fade and leaves grow sear;  
Yet they bloom again, more lovely  
In the new-time drawing near.

Yes, they bloom in greater beauty  
As if deeds from seeds were sown,  
And a blessed Hand revives them  
When He takes us for His own.

March 14, 1899.

## YOUTH

WHEN to fields I've oft been journeying  
With weary steps toward home returning,  
Gladdened by the house lamp's beam,  
From hills which now so distant seem;  
Hands o'erladen in prolix plenty  
Culled neath oak's old pillared sentry,  
Plucked from maze in Wonderland,  
Grown on banks by breezes fanned  
'Mongst winds' soft whispers, sighing, soughing,  
As of Dryads in their wooing;  
In labyrinthal tangle playing,  
Fairies, on their tours a-maying!  
The childish mind, in sleep a-dreaming  
Of wonders, full; with meaning teeming,  
Asks, what decrees the honey sweet,  
And honeysuckles, red;  
And how are roots and birdlets fed;  
And music forth as organ pipe,  
And berries green, then ripe.

## MANHOOD

IN Earth's symphonic swell  
Through pipes of living green  
Tones, fundamental, storm-wild dwell,  
Touched by Hand Unseen.  
Or to the gentle cadence of a sigh,  
Or voiceless; or to the gentle dirge  
Whispers 'mongst the tremulous leaves to die.  
Its overtones, in softest strains to surge,  
Then crashing, mighty monotone!  
In cataracts' awful leap  
As one in grief, apart, alone,  
His madness in this strife to steep,  
And listening to the surging strain  
In ceaseless tragic song, he finds  
No solace for his voiceless pain  
In the message of the winds.

\* \* \* \* \*

Until he knows this ceaseless endless throb  
Runs through all life, as if penalty for being;  
And sob of all mankind, e'en of Nature, too,  
Enrolled, for her travail for growth.  
The sunlight gleams, then sinks;  
Oft in th' enfolding leaf to greater beauty  
It a-weary seems; the flowret strives, then dies;  
There is no grief for fulfilled life.



From shapeless stem to blossom fair,  
With comely bud between, as beauteous as aught  
    may be,  
As gem formed, too, by crystallized light unseen;  
And coral caves, low forming deeps  
From ruthless violence their treasures low.

## CHARACTER

AND so perfection strives.  
Slow-forming humus keeps  
Its richest soil 'neath forests old;  
And nurtures night and day  
The oak and undergrowth with mold  
Formed from life and its decay.  
So man, to his conviction turns,  
His faith and work his compass keep,  
And everywhere, by growth, he learns  
That all must wait to reap.

September, 1904.

## THE BUDDS OF MILLERSVILLE

We crack the whip and make a start  
For a glimpse of the trees and Nature's heart;  
Away from the noise and the busy mart  
To the Budds at Millersville.

The circling beauty of long Fall Creek  
Sinuous and fair on whose banks we seek  
The trees, like plumes on mountain peak  
Colored from Nature's palette.

There, ripened ear and stock of corn  
The pumpkin, squash, and vine adorn,  
Where latchstring hangs from morn to morn  
Giving its friendly greeting.

We look into the hearth's warm glow,  
Cordial and kind, and we know  
That there are blessings here below  
If we only seek to find them.

All unite in friendly meeting,  
Chairs hold out their arms in greeting;  
And one forgets that time is fleeting,  
In life's e'er changing season.

Books by philosophers, poets, and sages,  
Thoughts that endure for eons and ages,  
Are there, if one will but open their pages,  
To read and dream and ponder

On the lessons of life which all must learn  
In books, or out of books, to make us yearn  
For better things which await us in turn  
In the Land beyond the River.

\* \* \* \* \*

And one goes away and back again,  
Voicing the praise of bluebird and wren,  
As they chant and sing their joyful amen  
To the Maker and Giver of all.

Pictures, in red, brown, and golden hue,  
In memory linger, till the shadows and dew  
Of life's eve bring their own sweet rue  
To toilers and all a-weary.

1898.

## VENUS AND ADONIS

(After reading Shakespeare's Sonnet.)

As moon's cold rays to sun's hot kiss compared,  
So, when Adonis, lured by Venus,  
Died, a flower of sweetest purity

Sprang, to deck the place where, in thin air,  
He passed away; and unbegotten race,  
Cold, pure, and loveless as he had been,  
Was left unborn, of which he might have been  
the sire,

Had he so willed it. Paternal joy to him  
denied,

Of gods and goddesses and nymphs,

Love-flower entombed, unsatisfied:

The unborn love and fire that lurks in Venus'  
breast.

The rude boar's tusk his groin defiled,  
And, gashed to death, he lay unwept,

But for his would-be bride.

His bier, the sunny slope 'neath boughs

Near brooklet's side, of mossy green,

Whence sprang the flower of virtue, white and  
pure,

Forever shrined so sweet her love,

In symbol's language to endure.

T' upbuild itself in fount of tears,  
Flower nurtured by her grief had striven,  
And throve by moonbeam's softened ray,  
And by sun's heat unshriven.

January 9, 1904.

## SMILES

MISTAKE not valor! for oft it lies  
Beneath the smile which lends a ray of warmth  
Which far outweighs the force that reeks  
Of bloodshed and of woman's tears.  
Let smiles be viewed with praise  
As far above the frowns and misfits  
For a Nation's needs. Let "heavy blows and  
fast"  
Be felt with velvet touch;  
For we need peace; not war; love, not hate;  
And all that follows in their train  
For mankind's weal. Send us no tyrant's claim,  
But give us peace and smiles,  
Great God of Love!

November 17, 1911.

## THE ISLE OF MACKINAC

FAIR Mackinac, whose waters wash the shores  
Of craggy steppes, to pine trees' odorous  
peaks,  
A soul's eloquence fit tribute were  
To thy supremacy o'er these seas.  
Thou risest like a mountain's height  
In verdant hills primeval denseness.  
A citadel famed in history's lore;  
The red man's haunt, whose bark of birch,  
Impervious and water dry, these broad seas  
swept  
In radiant days like these, sun-kissed and  
glad,  
Soft-footed, trod this isle; once warrior,  
But today in conquest scattered to his happy  
hunting grounds.  
Invaded by the French, his lovely land,  
His numbers decimated in fair America's  
advance  
As by the British quest, and so this beauteous  
isle  
Its leaves of history turns, as do its yellowèd  
Leaves in Autumn; in forest's varied color,  
When frost's first nip in sufrance



Makes its golden harvest, that Nature shall her  
Power of splendor more unfold e'er Winter's  
snows.

Our Nation claims thee yet again in choice  
possession

There to hold, please God, as one fair jewel  
In her honored crown of gems. Peace reigns  
now here

The placent waters and the glowing orb of  
day

Do vie in wondrous claim upon each other.

Limpidity vies with atmosphere, or nobler  
In its wrath, when Tempest's awful threat its  
bosom heaves.

Here pines' rich balm and spruces' nut-brown  
cones

Give forth their Arabic spice in Nature's prodi-  
gality

And profusion; all laved in air of icy freshness.  
Cliffs ruggèd as the Norseman's hills,

Enchanting mazes in the devious paths,  
To song of sea's soft lull, or in harmonious  
structure

Of its under tones; from opal skies  
The sun drops red and gold, mirrored in lake

Of opaline reflection. Ah this were land  
Well worthy the conquest of the great!

Yon Fort, far seeing o'er the sea's expanse  
In grander picturesque, more beautiful than in  
War's alarm;

And now the dove of Peace its portals guards,

## Apostrophe to Hope

Its vantage, noble and serene, and men and seas  
are calm.

Rest here, fair dove, that though the eagle  
near,

Thy cote be not disturbèd, let the laurel and  
the palm branch weave.

O beauteous Isle, bring unto thee the  
weary

Here to rest; give of thy balm forever unde-  
pleted.

And pray we that Nature in her varied  
changes

May not award to this mid-ocean isle oblivion  
nor engulfment;

That her fair face upon foundations fast  
Shall last; and beautify, through ages yet to  
come,

As worthy of her bounteous gift  
From mother source, as parent to her child.

O Mackinac, hast thou a twin? In all the  
earth

Dost likeness favor thee, or is thy ruggèd beauty  
thine alone,

Unique? Thy answer in the birch and pines'  
tall growth

And whispered song, their unctuous, aromatic  
smell;

'Tis also read in rock-ribbed pile of upturned  
stone

And ocean's swell. In fragrant air and bounding  
wave

Thy kinship to kind Nature's heart, but yet  
alone,  
Apart, as some great work of Masterhand,  
created once  
Complete, well done, is ne'er its counterpart to  
find,  
Nor likeness made in any clime.

September 28, 1905.

## AN IDYLL

(SOUVENIR AFFECTUEUX)

MANY moods has the poet's mind.  
Tonight I am thinking of you;  
And the long summer walks  
And the long cherished talks,  
Just a page in the lives of two.

One of many in the full Book of Life;  
Light and shade of two happy hearts;  
I was sad when you sorrowed, and glad when  
you laughed,  
As from the full goblet of youth we both  
quaffed,  
Nor thought once of Cupid's barbed dart.

'Twas a friendship of rarest delight.  
Silent or gay, you understood well,  
Though we drove through the wintry wind;  
The mood of the one to the other defined,  
In silence, by magic's spell.

## An Idyll

101

You have gone to the Other Shore;  
Does he die who ever is true?  
Though our eyes may not meet,  
There's ne'er a heart's beat  
That could ever be false to you.

April 15, 1904.

## A GRAIN OF RICE

BORN in thy sunny clime,  
The Occident thou hast invaded  
With thy dainty and pervading entity,  
In thy beneficent gift containing  
Manna for the perishing,  
Unimprisoned from thy sheath,  
Nature's little capsule,  
Grain of rice!

Dainty ministrations, thine,  
To gentle needs and to heroic ends,  
Thou fair white thing!  
Let others sing to Bacchus  
And to the flowing bowl,  
I salute thy snowy mounds,  
O fair white grains of rice!

No ghosts enrage in thy stomachic sepulcher.  
Oh to see thy waving sea of heads!  
To pause upon the threshold of thy mission,  
To think upon thy beauty and beneficence;  
As that which gives unceasingly  
And without stint,  
O fair white grains of rice!

September 21, 1911.

## YE WAVES

YE waves, laugh and dance in your gayest of  
moods,  
And throw your white spray to the beach, mead,  
and woods;  
In festoon and figure bespangle your veils,  
Leap high in mid air, and entangle your sails.

Changing moods you indulge, you resist your  
confines,  
Your laughter returns, though you moan too,  
sometimes;  
'Gainst your borders too narrow, you roar and  
resist,  
To return to your laughter, when by sunshine  
bekist.

TO DICK

Now you have my congratulations,  
My best sincerest salutations!  
Not less sincere,  
Believe me, dear,  
Because a little over due;  
But just as heartfelt, true to you.

September, 1901.



VISIONS are sent,  
    Visions are given,  
Messages come from  
    The heights of heaven.

## TRUST

TRUST when the waves are highest,  
Trust when the ebb is low,  
God in His mercy heareth,  
Trust in the overflow.

1901.

## IN EXTREMIS

(Vision of Sir Launfal, and the words which **CHRIST** in the vision said to him: "Who gives himself with his alms, feeds three—himself, his hungering neighbor, and **ME.**")

I CRY to my God in the night for strength,  
And He sustaineth me.  
I pray to Him for deliverance from mine enemies,  
And He heareth me.  
I seek the way through His guidance,  
And He leadeth me.  
Giving faith and showing His marvels,  
Else my feet stumble and I fall.  
Verily His promises glorify  
And His counsels are cherished;  
For He is greater than all, and over all.  
With Him I can stand,  
Even though the mountains crumble  
And all men turn against me.  
He accounts the sparrow's fall,  
And, unworthy as I am,  
He will abide with me when I call aright  
Upon Him. Great and Omnipotent  
Are His works and mighty are His counsels.

October 6, 1904.

## VERITAS

("The truth is like the sun, it may be obscured for a time; but, like the sun, it will not be obscured always.")

KNOW ye not, minions, that naught but true greatness abides?

The possessor knows his not; but guided by the unerring hand of Right,  
Impelled by forces of the mighty hosts, he acts;

Not for plaudits, nor fleeting, flattering sound,  
But for some prayer of his or theirs, asked at a time

When souls were in communion with the Lord of Hosts.

A decree is given, a mission sent; God, through His laws,  
Gives us to Fate; we call it Destiny; what better name?

The right prevails, though sometimes late to us it seem.

What of delays? born of the divine, it cannot fail;

Strive for the heart of things; claim His promises  
As worthy as is thy meed of faith; nothing  
fails that's true;

'Tis but the false, of tinsel, trickery, and broken  
faith, that fails;

All vanities webbed in Loom of Life, bring  
but defeat.

Powerless praise! Truth thou soul of all!

November 1, 1901.

## THERE WILL BE REST

THERE will be rest;  
For One who never fails has promised  
That in the quiet harbor of the blest  
All strife shall be forgotten  
    In new life;  
There will be rest.

There will be songs;  
For One who never fails has promised  
That strength shall come for which the spirit  
    longs  
And care with dust shall die  
    And be forgot;  
There will be songs.

1900.

## OH WHY THE GREAT HEART'S OVER- FLOW!

OH why the great heart's overflow  
In flood-tides swells which come and go,  
Like ocean's depths and cataract's leap,  
Across vast space and vaster deep,  
Athwart and o'er the undertow!

Why its limits, limitless,  
Since limitations we confess  
Of poor mortality's horizon  
Of faith to ideals, hardly won,  
And infinite pain we would repress

With finite power; its surging throb  
Would still; its vast domain would rob  
Of space and deeps indefinite  
Which lead us toward the Infinite  
Through soundless deeps and ceaseless throbs.

Be still, faint heart, it is thy soul  
That cries through thee; and on the scroll  
Of mighty ages thou shalt read  
Of steadfast faith, of pregnant seed,  
Of deeds made worthy to enroll.

## Apostrophe to Hope

For Love is statelier than kings;  
 Greater than equity; and loftier sings  
 Her noble song, than ocean's moan  
 Or cataract's dash, or sea's volcanic cone;  
 And through the chaos softly rings

When Justice hidden seems; and din is great,  
 Her balance broken; and the light comes late.  
 Her full white arm for Right not bared,  
 Her sight no longer darkened, as she dared  
 With mortal eyes to see; with mortal ends to  
     mate.

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

But seas and hearts and souls be calmed!  
 Let halting Doubt no longer damned  
 By eyes which look but yet are scaled,  
 The moonbeam by the sun's light paled.  
 And Justice, blind, shall see aright,  
 Shall wrest from out the darkest night  
 That which her balance weighs.  
 And sun's full shine shall light the days  
 Its sparkle on the high waves' crest  
 And sun and love, the tired soul rest.

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

Though depths, their deeps, their sigh and sob,  
 Go on through ceaseless ages; but to rob  
 At last, the weary pain, the bitter smart  
 Of poor mortality—this human heart.



## DRIFTING

I GAZE out for a sight of the land,  
Hear the ebb sing soft and low;  
The water sparkles and large fish leap,  
While drowsy with fresh sea air I can sleep  
With no thought of the undertow  
Or the gleam of receding sand.

April 17, 1904.

## IN HARBOR

I LOOK out on the dark'ning main,  
The shrieking winds blow mad  
O'er iron waves of a wintry sea.  
And the piercing rain  
And the storm seem glad  
That my love is in harbor with me.

## VIA DOLOROSA

("They know not what they do.")

My heart is full of sighs  
And in my soul there lies  
    A pain unspeakable.

In Rebellion's icy stare  
My spirit stills the prayer,  
    My heart so aches.

I grope, and fail to find  
The light; yet the conscious mind  
    Assurance gives,

Though God seem far away,  
This cloud of somber gray  
    His presence hides.

1906.

## INSOMNIA

EYELIDS drawn by hand of fiend, a thousand  
    terrors,  
As of noisome things; of reptiles, sleek and  
    sinuous,  
Spitting the poison from their gums;  
Of beetles, wasps and asps, and nameless little  
    things,  
That with a dot do sting the body to a pulp.  
Legions of devils laughing while their imps the  
Heart strings pull. Busy, too, as devils in their  
    hell.  
Pulses running burning lava, eyes surcharged  
    with brine;  
Or puffing orbs to bursting, chasing furrows  
Which once were cheeks of snowy roundness.  
Eagles and birds of prey, long-beakèd, sit  
And from the heart do peck an atom every hour  
And chatter while they make their feasts.  
What and why all this?  
Mayhap for nerves o'erwrought in music's realm,  
Or for a mission to the sick, a life to others given;  
Or book of sunny thoughts, to gladden all who  
    read,  
Writ by midnight oil, too long, too ceaselessly.

A fair star beckoning over there, a magnet to  
the man.

A bird of beauty, perched to lure by song so  
sweet

That song and plumage are too fair and beautiful.  
Mayhap a poem, of so rare a worth, so wond'rous  
in its prophecies,

And yet its beauty digging entrails out of him  
who writ.

A painting too, a story tells of tortures of the  
damned;

Extremes which meet in fervid heat, turned by  
excess

To bitter gall. The receding of the goal

As he approached it, the small mean little thing  
Compared with what he felt, and what his soul  
could feel.

And so a statue; which should have breath,  
But would not; should speak; but cold, unyield-  
ing,

Silent and disdainful, because it cannot feel the  
lava

In its author's burning veins.

And so the bard hath writ of the torments of  
success;

All wrought as best they could, and not in vain,  
If but to learn man's impotence.

And each a great truth tried to tell.

Another, and a briefer yet, the miser's gold to  
count,

Until both hands and heart are palsied by the act.

A poor mean quality, which makes men fools,  
forgetting God  
And all most dear, to hoard and worship for a  
few brief years;  
In getting, hastening for themselves their end;  
That those who follow them the gift may dissipate.  
The laborer shall toil and sweat, his night's  
relief engaging  
For toilers of the brain and heart, ambition's  
weary slaving.  
Each earns his modicum of rest and waits upon  
the morrow,  
Eager for the promises and morning light to  
come.

1902.

## SLEEP

WHEN the shades of night come down  
Wingèd messengers flit around.

    Their name is Sleep.

    They come from Poppy-land,  
Scattering the pollen from their blooms  
And blest indeed is he who has a dust  
    From their fay fingers.

In every atom is a dream; forgetfulness  
And rest. Each leaf a barque on Lethe's stream,  
    Whose tide, swift flowing,

Leads out to seas of peace. Oceans, whose waves  
Sing songs of lullaby; cradles of crested foam;  
Billows music-laden with siren's songs  
Which need not rhyme, to make their melody.

    Pilot-like, guiding  
To that lovely land, where senses in abeyance,  
The spirit floats to higher realms,  
And there, forgetful of its weary self,  
Dwells for moments in empyrean.

    The way is trackless;  
    The air is ether  
And the port is Heaven.

1899.

## THE MIST

VEILS of filmy nebulæ  
Hang aloof as soft as air  
Along the valley's tortuous way  
Trailing their silken tissues there.  
Airy, fairy, vaporous, soft,  
Dainty gray folds of grace,  
Draping and drooping, rising aloft—  
Fleeing away into space.  
Silently, lightly fading away  
By evening's zephyr bekist;  
Shadowy folds of silken gray,  
Mysterious shades of mournful mist.

April 4, 1905.



## AN ALBUM LEAF

(TO MRS. C. C. B.)

(In answer to a request from her daughter.)

How can I in a little space,  
Such as you have awarded,  
Pay tribute to so fair a face  
And mind so sweet and candid  
As your Mother's?

Many oaths make not the truth,  
"But the single vow vowed true";  
So if I lack the space, forsooth,  
The sentiment for which I sue,  
Is all your Mother's.

TO MRS. —

("I seem to have nothing for you but love—you give, I receive." Mrs. —'s letter.)

"NOTHING but love!" *amiga mia*,  
Thy offering exceeds all the wealth of Ind.  
Its coral caves, the mines  
Wherein the sparkling gems are stored  
Give forth no priceless thing, like thine to me.  
That which exceeds e'en equity,  
Fair justice and is its source.  
And thou givest praise for a soul's weak expression  
In music; heart throbs along the way,  
If charm there be, 'tis this.  
Thou, dear friend, art generous to my faults,  
Too blind to inefficiencies, which I deplore;  
Thou givest of thy great soul's depths,  
Thou givest and mine receives.  
1908.

## OH, THE FAIR OCTOBER DAYS

OH, the fair October days  
In the mellow of the year,  
When leaves in reds, browns, and grays—  
Their varied colors sear,  
And bluebirds twitter and twitter,  
And flit from the bough to the bough,  
Trusting, not asking, but waiting and singing—  
The plentiful year to endow.

The leaves are falling, falling,  
In these melancholy days  
Gilding the air ever,  
With a dreamy subtle haze.  
Ah, it is pleasant to linger  
'Mid their reds and golden brown,  
And dream and wander through them  
As they come raining down

With a promise of enrichment  
And the earth to fructify,  
Yea, as sorrows chasten ever,  
As we go wandering by,  
Like the leaves, on a sad October day.

\* \* \* \* \*

124      Apostrophe to Hope

Oh, the yellow air of amber;  
Ah, the days so soft and somber  
Into peace and hope reviving  
For a rest from longer striving,  
Like the quiet of a fair October day.

1898.

## THE SONNET

GEM of Poesy! consummate art!  
Sublimely fashioned to a wondrous perfection  
Of form in thought and thought in form;  
A modeled, chiseled, and perfected thing;  
But limited and circumscribed  
By rule inflexible.

The form constrains and takes from liberty its  
wings;  
Like statue in the whitest marble  
Cast in lines conventional, attracts, but does  
not  
Touch the heart; but Mind is held in its en-  
thrallment  
And Beauty is its sponsor, Admiration lends its  
eye;  
But Soul withholds its loving tribute  
To a form.

Shakespeare, greatest bard since Homer,  
Defied the form exact; defined it a "stretchèd  
measure";

That scope his song might have, and Muse be  
not tormented.

As hedged by lines and form before the thought,  
In numbers, length, and measure; as by a calcu-  
lation wrought

Not in technique, yet abiding still by law,  
And with an art concealed the art,  
In Music's throbs.

In thought unsearched and undevisèd, in flow, as  
fluent

As the stars, throughout their courses;  
Nor in puzzle, nor enigma, wrought,  
But simplified to eloquence.

Give larger vehicle to song; old Masters' hallelu-  
jahs!

Whose power, begot in inspiration,  
Was born in spontaneity; today choose vehicle  
more mighty;

The stately strophe of the Greek, mightier  
Than spinet's limit or harpsichord's harassment;  
Lines which hamper less, larger note can sound  
In wider gamut, in depth and height and  
breadth.

And greater wit will find its way; give loftier  
flight

To sense and spirit than in Sonnet and old  
Sonaten,

Though quaint in classic elegance  
And prim in antique song.

April 16, 1904.

## COURAGE

WHY do we sing  
When all seems vain?  
Is it the Martyr's song,  
An echo of his pain?

\* \* \* \* \*

Of courage midst  
The foes of earth;  
Of trust, though clouds obscure,  
In all this dearth  
Of joy and mirth  
What hope can here allure?

June, 1903.

## AN OCTAVE

IN the silent unfolding  
Of the frond of the fern,  
In its spreading beauty  
Our lessons we may learn;  
As in perfected lily  
Or perfect blooming rose;  
For not with noise and tumult  
Grows the work; but in repose.

November 17, 1903.



## MY BACK YARD

My neighbor's beds are sweet and pretty  
In parterre lines, round and square,  
The turf cut short, and not a blade  
Of bonny blue grass dare  
Its head in tasseled shock to lift  
Lest sickle's ravage lay it bare.

True, the spots, both brown and gray,  
To my eyes more unsightly, than  
My little wildwood tangle  
Untouched by hand of man,  
Nor scythe or sickle, grass head culls  
From my little back yard plan.

There are daisies and red roses,  
To greet me every morn;  
Sweet buttercups and eglantine,  
And honeysuckle wreaths adorn  
My back yard in profusion  
Growing 'mongst some stocks of corn.

Set in deepest mats of grasses,  
Whence comes their nurture meet,

## Apostrophe to Hope

And giving me a breath of air  
My neighbors too, so pure and sweet,  
As hand of Nature placed them  
Their daily greetings to repeat.

Convention says that they must go;  
That Nature is too wild.  
And so their pretty heads must bend  
By sickle's ruthless blade defiled.  
They fall—and to me it seems a dirge  
To wasted life, unreconciled.

Convention says thou shalt not  
Leave Nature in profusion.  
Who dare gainsay this stiff old dame  
Who feeds us on delusion!  
My soul says, but thou shalt;  
Though to her it mean confusion.

Protesting they, as lying low,  
While uttering sweet perfume,  
To me their ravages most dire  
And hard as hand of doom.  
Ah me, must I thus say good-bye,  
Who shall their beauty reallume?

If, then my tangled wildwood  
Must, flowers and all be laid  
To sod and soil unsightly,  
Beauties doomed to fade,  
Whose hand can reawaken  
But God's, what He has made?

Sunshine that meant to green the grass  
Perforce, must cut and dry the soil,  
And colors of prismatic hue  
In vain for their perfection toil.  
Thus thwarted by the sickle's grasp  
To earth their beauteous claims despoil.

June 5, 1904.

## CHRISTMAS SONG

WEALTH of gold in sunshine  
Of silver in the snow,  
Music in the atmosphere,  
If we all but know  
How and where to find them  
With minds and hearts in tune  
Pulsing to the rhythm  
Of Nature's tender rune.

God favors some to find  
This blessèd privilege:  
From others oft withholden,  
Who look but on the ridge  
And not to mountain heights,  
Where choicest blossoms bloom,  
Where rarest virtues thrive  
Sent hence, by noise and gloom.

Flowers in the springtime,  
Stars in azure blue,  
Birds aloof a-singing,  
And only man doth rue;

## Christmas Song

133

Of all God's children chosen  
    'Tis he alone, who sees  
Nor feels not in his brother  
    The kinship of all these.

Too gentle and too true  
    To join in din and strife,  
The bird sings while it flies  
    Lest in his joyous life  
He learn of mortal envy;  
    Which might destroy his peace,  
And wither the sweet flowers,  
    Then would his glad song cease.

Give birds air and sunshine;  
    Give flowers the light and sod,  
To all who envy, prayers;  
    To mankind, love of God,  
That the law of Heaven  
    May find, at last, on earth  
Its glory and fulfillment  
    In Faith and Hope, new birth.

1897.

## MY MOTHER'S LAST MESSAGE

“TELL them the glorious news!”  
Triumph on Eternity's shore;  
Message to absent loved ones  
Sent back from Heaven's door.

Glorious to live in the spirit  
In the light of her Saviour's face,  
Where pain and woe are banished,  
Where all are saved by His grace.

From Time through Eternity's cycles  
Where naught can fail or destroy,  
She passed attended by angels  
To a joy without alloy.

Where cycles are not measured  
By anticipation, dread, or hate,  
But come and go without reck'ning,  
Where it is neither early nor late.

The heritage of His faithful  
Where naught can fail or decay,  
Nor morning, noon, or night time,  
But a glorious livelong day.

## My Mother's Last Message 135

She had prayed, trusted, and waited;  
And her Father attended her there  
In answer to His promise  
Of blessings, wondrous and fair.

From the high seats of the mighty  
In a radiance surpassing sweet,  
To shine and beckon us onward,  
To encourage our halting feet.

“Glorious news!” Triumphant  
O'er earth's vain and sinful thrall!  
Oh may we see her face again  
When we answer to His call.

September 4, 1899.

I thank the Great Powers that it was given to me, even in so weak a way, to preserve this eloquent message. It seems to her daughter the most beautiful, last message, before entering into the new, and higher life.—L. H. M.

## CONSOLATION

AGE is not years;  
    'Tis the weight on the heart  
Of working and pain  
    Of waiting and tears.

Years, but a span;  
    They pass like a breath  
To Eternity's shore,  
    And the spirit's the man.

1898.



## MY LOVE AND I

THERE are heart throbs the world cannot see,  
    THERE are thoughts that the world cannot ken;  
THESE are for mine and for me,  
    FAR away from the haunts of men.

THERE are hand clasps so tender and true,  
    THERE are glances so fraught with love,  
BUT these are for me and for you  
    AS the stars are the heaven's above.

1898.

## VICTORY

THE clouds lower  
And then they rise;  
The sunshine flickers  
And then it dies.  
So, my heart,  
Be thou but brave;  
As He who watches  
And e'er forgave,  
Be patient yet;  
The wrongs thou hast  
Are also His,—He will repay;  
Thy victory, last.

November 17, 1903.

## A HYMN

THERE is a lot that falls to all  
Of shade and sunshine intertwined;  
Like shadows cast by moonshine's fall  
Which proves the light beyond divined.

'Tis all a part of what God sends  
To grace the growth that He desires,  
And to this dispensation lends  
A sweetness which His care requires.

1887.

## THE WIND BLOWS

(NOVEMBER)

YEA, the wind blows,—  
Its breath a sigh or a moan.  
And in lull and repose,—  
A fresh wak'ning dirge or a groan.

\* \* \* \* \*

'Tis a sigh to the wayfarer, far from home  
In lands alone and a-weary,  
Its cadences rise and fall like a moan  
In his world so lonely and dreary.

'Tis a dirge, when o'er the new-made grave  
It marks its lonely refrain,  
As if seeking the heart, where no earthly crave  
Can disturb or discover the pain.

A dirge, not to the sleeping,  
But to the weeping;  
Not to the dead, but the living;  
Not to the resting,  
But to the hasting;  
Not to the proved,—but misgiving.

Who escapes the moan in the winds?  
Who, the sigh in the heart,  
Or hears not the dirge, which always reminds  
Of heavenly peace and world's care apart.

'Tis a dirge, not to the sleeping,  
But to the weeping;  
Not to the dead, but the living;  
Not to the resting,  
But to the hasting;  
Not to the proved,—but misgiving.

1898.

TO C. S. N.

A MIGHTY man has risen!  
A king called to his home;  
Nor words can tell of thee, reverèd friend,  
But works live here, where thou hast been,  
Deeds speak of thee most eloquent.  
Their aroma, like spice, which lingers long;  
Sweet perfume of remembrance  
Weaves garlands of the choicest blooms.  
And Memory brings her frankincense  
To lay all these, not on the tomb,  
But on the crown, wrought from earthly cross;  
And to the kingly heart, which pulsed with  
love  
Of all humanity; sympathies attuned to all  
mankind,  
In kindness, absolute.  
Yea, a mighty man has risen! He conquered,  
Served, and now he reigns.  
Anthems of the glad well done, ring in celestial  
strains  
To greet his coming to that lovely land  
To which he journeyed on, fearless and tearless.  
He labored here, revered; filled with earth's  
honors;

Empty, these! As now to fairer lands he goes  
To meet rewards prepared for such as he.  
Words, ye are inadequate; though reverent and  
sincere,  
When ye essay to sing of him;  
For aye, a mighty man is risen.

February 23, 1908.

## HONORS MUST BE WON

(TO A YOUNG LAD)

HONORS must be won, my boy;  
There are others in the race,  
Many noble workers  
Pressing on with steadfast pace.

Working not for commendation,  
But excellence is their aim;  
Let thy banner be "Excelsior"!   
Its folds, alone, mean Fame.

So, if honors must be won,  
Be fair to one and all;  
The more of help, the more divine  
The honors to your lot shall fall.

October 24, 1899.



## MUSIC

("Far in the past I heard the heaven-tuned voice  
That charmed my soul and held me to my choice;  
'Twas thine, O Melody.")

O MUSIC, whose soul is harmony,  
Enter into our earthly lives  
That, by thine acquaintance, we may progress  
To higher spheres and loftier.  
Thou art the spirit of the spheres,  
Thou penetrest to the innermost  
Making the refinement of all things earthly;  
To lead by thine expansive measures  
To celestial joys; poets sing of thee;  
But no finite mind may grasp thee yet.  
Thou art the language of angels,  
By growth, slow yet secure,  
Of the spirit toward the Spirit  
To him who seeks, shall man learn  
Of all thou art; applauded,  
Yet much hath man to learn of thee.  
Thy mission is to solace, to uplift,  
To magnify; by thee, life's great leaven,  
Love, shall be cemented; friendships shall be  
centered,  
Wars shall be quelled by thee

And the minds of men be tempered.

Times shall change, and by thy force and  
eloquence

Strength shall come from gentleness

Harmony out of discord; for where thou art  
O Melody, all avenues are thine.

Priest, publican, and sinner shall know thee  
For thou'rt heaven's chief help in saving souls.

January 21, 1899.

À MME. MARIE CÉLESTE P——

KNOWEST thou the esoteric meaning of a name?  
Its content? Mary Céleste; purity is thy fame;  
There is a hidden prophecy, which we give not  
to ourselves,  
As t'were a significance, superseded by the elves.

\* \* \* \* \*

Laura, for deeds and laurels;  
For Josephine, fidelity, wealth, and grace;  
For Dorothy, a dignity, and comeliness of  
face.

Julia, a dainty ether;  
Deborah, lofty, pure, and true;  
And in love and trust, I, for Gertrude's heart,  
would sue.

Jane, not Jennie, is woeful with Eliza!  
Margaret is eloquent for her kind;  
While Elizabeth, a test is, of most virtuous  
mind.

Ella, not Helen or Elena, is a fancy;  
Prophecy small, unto the end;  
When in extremest need, for her, you may not  
send,  
But to Frances, I adore her!

Tho' I've not found the Sallys faithful, or have  
you?

Nor Emmas, staunch and loyal, in friendships'  
noblest few.

\* \* \* \* \*

I would not name my child a Rosie,  
Lest thorns would grow athwart,  
And pierce the beauteous posey,  
Deep into friendship's heart.  
Rosalie and Adelaide  
Are beautiful together,  
And should be loyal, firm, and true  
In fair and stormy weather.  
To Coras, Kates, and Doras,  
The poet sends a sigh;  
But, unto the Floras,  
Weave garlands, fling them high!  
So, to you, *ma chère* Marie,  
A name *à part*, by faith, was given,  
That, by your works, while here below,  
You shall ascend to Heaven.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 1, 1915.

## PUT NOT THY TRUST IN PRINCES

(PSALM CXLVI)

PUT not thy trust in princes;  
Hold the best thou hast to give for One who never  
fails

As long as thou shalt live, to care for thee;  
More than father, for his earthly child,  
Or mother, for her nursling.  
Love imperishable! through all neglect  
Of Him and His commands, save thy faith in  
Him.

And when some mortal spirit wounds thine own,  
Turn thou to Him. Put not thy trust in princes,  
For e'en beyond this earthly pilgrimage,  
He hath prepared thy home, forgives thine  
inconsistencies,

Withholds so long His wrath.  
Gives yet a little time, that thou take heed  
That through this Vale of Tears thou may'st  
ascend

To His domain to rest; and with the saints, to  
help

His work to do on earth; perchance, a messenger  
To those distressed; back to this Vale,

To point, unknown to them, the way to that  
dear love

That never fails and knows no change.

LOVE AS IMMUTABLE AS GOD.

Put not thy trust in princes, else thy heart

Will yearn in vain for what it hungers;

Famished, ever seeking for its need,

Turned in upon itself to cry, until it finds

And knows Thy love, O Father, and in it rests.

There to fortify for storms, until their stress is  
past.

In th' imperishable, limitless shelter of Thy  
love;

To shield and break the weight of care upon us,

Which could hurl against the reef of heedlessness

And weakness born within us.

The prince may be the lowliest; yea, as in a  
manger

When a King was born; the stars sang

And face of Nature smiled. A little babe, un-  
guiled,

And ne'er to sin, The Prince of House Most  
Royal.

March 2, 1904.

TO GERTRUDE H——

THOU art one of the loves of my life;  
So graceful and debonaire;  
So gentle, sweet, and fair;  
That I would a tribute pay  
Worthy of my love today.

Devoted, loyal, ever,  
Thou hast come into my life and heart,  
As fragile as a reed thou art;  
Yes, fragile as a reed;  
Yet strong as a great deed.

In thy love of truth and right,  
Thou art sister, daughter, friend;  
Not often do the Powers send  
One like unto thee,—  
As my Gertrude comes to me.

Alas, the days go slowly by;  
The future holds for us much more  
Than yet vouchsafed; it has in store  
Love and a home for thee,  
Wherein a heart shall faithful be.

February 18, 1903.

## ODE TO FRIENDSHIP

("Mysterious cement of the soul, sweet'ner of life, and  
solder of Society.")

SACRED mystery! true synonym of God,  
Of Nature, Love, and Life.  
There thou standest, like the great white oak  
Nor storm nor stress can beat upon thy trunk  
to slay it.  
Like Time and Truth, itself, to last,  
Stronger growing, 'gainst the cank'rous tide,  
Thy fibre ever proving. Rare as orchid  
And high as edelweiss, growth of all most rare.  
Tested, to stand, like the adamantine rock;  
A rod of Moses in the wilderness;  
Yea, e'en Aaron's rod, putting forth buds in  
barren lands.  
Let me know thee, Friendship, for no chord  
That hand of man can strike in Earth's great  
symphony  
Likens to thee. Yea, higher than the orchid  
And loftier than the edelweiss, which thrive not  
In the lowlands. What soil would'st have?  
Equality; first of standards, mind, and soul.  
There is a law unwrit, but not unprovèd



## Ode to Friendship

153

To water with tears of joy and grief  
And leaven with waiting and sorrow.  
And ye, O Pilgrim, who to fair fulfillment  
Would have this priceless boon, will ye not  
these  
For that which always gives and always has to  
give.  
Not of the word but of the spirit.  
On Fame's declivities, there is naught to take  
thy place  
O ministering friendship!  
Oft have I heard thy strain, and in each zone of  
life,  
As rare thou art, ne'er obsolete;  
But living shining entity. So as the night of  
years draws on  
Give thyself to mine and me,  
In the likeness of God's love, then shall I be  
satisfied.  
Thou who smilest in the desert of our darkest  
desolation,  
Ah, thou art the link to God and angels,  
The Truth! the Alpha and Omega  
The three in One.

August 22, 1902.

## A SLEIGHING SONG

ALL Nature is a-smiling,  
The happy hours beguiling;  
Her jewelled mantle wearing  
She reigns a princess, bearing  
Beauty; and with wand a-waving,  
The magic scene enslaving,  
The earth and air a-glitter  
With the glimmer and the glamour  
Of the glint!

Oh the merry sleighing weather  
O'er paths where once was heather;  
To the sounds of happy laughter  
Hearts beating fast and faster  
To the jingle of the jangle  
And the boughs bent all a-tangle  
In the glimmer and the glamour  
And the glitter  
Of the glint!

("All we are is in the soul; are you sure yours has had its full development?")

BALZAC.

TO MRS. H——

SHE sees by the light of the soul;  
Unerring her sight a queen she walks in the light.  
A word, and Nature's beauties unroll;  
    The red of the rose,  
    The pale of the pinks,  
    The light of the heavens  
    Where the afterglow sinks  
    In its liquid and molten gold,  
For she sees by the light of the soul.

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*

When to my vision shall unroll the scroll  
May I see by the light of the soul.

February 8, 1903.

## SINCERITY

OF all the gifts the gods bestow  
Is sincerity the rarest?  
Yet to mortals here below,  
It is indeed, the fairest.

March 18, 1915.

## A THOUGHT

I LOVE the sunshine;  
And when the leaden skies its brilliance hides,  
A sense of thanks comes o'er me  
And all other sense o'er rides  
In gratitude for shelter.  
October 30, 1910.

## GRATITUDE

WHEN I wander in Thy fields, O God,  
    Thou upliftest me;  
As I pluck the messengers Thou hast sent,  
    I learn of Thee;  
As I bend the knee to these, Thy gifts,  
Asking for their lessons,  
    My heart ascends to Thee;  
And to the trees, Thy shrines,  
In thankfulness for their shade;  
Which, with unvarying kindliness  
Shelter from the scorching rays,  
    As Thy beneficence  
In the noonday sun of life.  
And their cool effulgence in the night  
Soothes the fever of the spirit;  
Like the green tent in the wilderness  
    Their canopy is rest;  
Their leaves and boughs are altars,  
Munificent expression of Thy power  
Silent and ever reassuring  
    As Thy laws.

July 24, 1903.

TO MR. AND MRS. M. S.

WEDDED! Ah, that is a wonder-word!  
The old sweet story of hearts entwined.  
Of love and hope and faith preferred;  
May you therein this emblem find.  
God grant that with chaste orange bloom  
Shall weave the blessings health and peace  
In life's e'er varying loom.

That orange bloom, pure white,  
Shall e'er the symbol be  
Of what "you ask aright,"  
Of love and faith and purity.  
"From wrong debar";  
And as the shadows lengthen  
"Make brighter every star."

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 7, 1909.

## THE LAND OF THE LAUGHING WATER

MINNESOTA! Minnetonka! Minnehaha!  
Sweet euphony in sky and air!  
Nature's voice, in anthem fair;  
In full choruses to blend,  
Heaven's messages to send  
In the rareness  
And the fairness  
Of the riant splendors of this land  
Of laughing water.

MINNEAPOLIS, October 10, 1914.



## L'ENVOI

O POESY, thou art the wine-press!

Thou wingèd Mercury!

The bloom and flower of thought;

The intimate utterances of the soul

Carrying balm to the belabored spirit;

Though the thoughtless would not conceive thee.

The Truth! the ultimate, the life,

When by th' Assayer's hand, the dross from  
gold is weighed,

O beauteous Poesy!

Its essence; as by the crucible of time and  
thought,

Of pain and joy,

That thou givest of thy psychic prophecies.

Time proves thee the expounder of the finest  
truth;

For as thou singest, so is he who singeth;

There is no falsity, no mask in thee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 1, 1915.













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